

For the seventh year, members of the Kentucky Construction Career Choice Council (K4C) hosted the annual Construction Career Days event at the Shelby County Fairgrounds in Shelbyville, Kentucky. Hands-on activities for 2,321 students and teachers (up from previous years) were provided by vendors representing construction trade associations. Many postsecondary institution representatives were also there to promote the value of a postsecondary education. It was an outstanding example of education and industry professionals working together to positively promote careers in the construction industry.



Seventh Annual K4C Construction Career Days Shelby County Fairgrounds

September 28-29, 2011

Developed to encourage students to consider a construction career

According to K4C's website (<http://www.k4c.org/>), "The purposes of the Kentucky Construction Career Choice Council (K4C) are to promote the construction industry, recruit individuals to refine their career potential in construction, and provide financial assistance to encourage and sustain workforce development."

For more information about the Kentucky Construction Career Choice Council, contact Lora Werner, director of member services, at (800) 489-4225.

Werner:

"The purpose of the K4C committee is to provide high school students in Kentucky with a first-hand look at construction related careers. We all feel that career days and workforce development provide the student with the many construction career choices that are available to them right in their own communities."

"Our exhibitors say they enjoy having the opportunity to work with students and that they make every effort to attend each year. K4C is a team effort that provides a much needed service to the future of our industry."



Above: Representatives of K4C executive committee (l to r): Shannon Woodard, AGC; Lora Werner, HBAK; Joel Berkley, KAPHCC; Mark Senninger, Senninger Plumbing; Christine Parsons, Parsons Electric; Daren Thompson, MSD; Chad LaRue, KAHC; Kevin Gray, KMI; Kevin Sleder, Kentuckiana Construction Users Council; Tommy Sutton, retired OCTE academic consultant; and Mac Crawford, HBAK.



Mr. Chad LaRue, P.E.
Kentucky Association of Highway Contractors, Inc.
Director of Membership Services
2011 K4C Chairman:



"The K4C Construction Career Days event is a wonderful opportunity for people who have made a career out of construction related trades to share their experiences, answer questions, and provide valuable insight to over 2,000 high school students from across Kentucky. The goal of the event is to inspire high school students to pursue careers in a construction related field."

Daren Thompson
MSD Flood Protection Supervisor
2011 K4C member and 2012 Construction Career Days chairman

"This year the committee was able to find critical sponsorship from four gracious companies that donated hard hats and safety glasses for the Construction Career Days event. The three companies sponsoring hard hats were CE Power, Comstock Brothers Electric Company, and Cardinal Insulation. The company that sponsored safety glasses for students was Dugan & Meyers Construction Company. Donations of this magnitude were of great benefit to the Construction Career Days event. The committee would like to give special thanks to each of these organizations for their commitment to workforce development and their understanding of the value in introducing students to our industry via an interactive event."



Dr. Dale Winkler
OCTE executive
director

Winkler:

"The genuine desire to positively promote careers in the construction industry was evident to me as a first time visitor to the K4C Construction Career Days event. I was impressed by its magnitude and believe it hits the mark in terms of providing students with an opportunity to speak with industry professionals to understand and explore various pathways within the construction career cluster. It also allows our instructors to make valuable contacts."

"It is evident that a lot of coordination takes place to bring in equipment, technology, and to create hands-on activities for students to enjoy. CTE teachers across the state talk about the positive impact this event has on their students. We congratulate the K4C and its associations for the value they place on this yearly event because the benefit in developing Kentucky's future skilled workforce is priceless."



KY Construction Career Days

Home Builders Association of Kentucky (HBAK)

An original partner and patron sponsor

*Students build small storage crates supervised by HBAK members.
The hands-on project has been in place since the inception of the construction career fair.*



Above: Ellery Esposito, president-elect of the HBAK shows students where to nail storage crate.



Above: Jim Cutter, of Jim Cutter Construction and a member of the Northern Kentucky Home Builders Association



Above: (l to r) Marshall Todd with the Somerset Home Builders Association and Mac Crawford, K4C member, enjoy working with students.

Mac Crawford:

"The goal is to expose construction careers to all students. This type of major undertaking works because of the strong connections between the tech centers and associations in K4C."

MSD – Metropolitan Sewer District (Louisville and Jefferson County)

Students enjoy activities during 2011 K4C Construction Career Days event

Daren Thompson:

"MSD pulled together an outstanding display with hands-on activities to catch the interest of students who participated in the construction career days event. We feel it is important to attend an event like this because we have an aging workforce and we need energetic and enthusiastic people coming into the profession."

"Over the years, the construction industry has developed a 'dirty' name. The bottom line is that this country is losing its ability to work with its hands and there are not enough skilled workers entering the construction trades to replace those who will be retiring over the next few years. There is good money to be made in the different facets of the construction industry and MSD is just one example of a company looking for skilled workers with a good work ethic."

Above: MSD team. Daren Thompson, MSD flood protection supervisor and member of K4C is on the far right, second from the end.



Above (l to r): Kevin Bright, MSD supervisor; Jonathan McCull, Shelby Co. ATC; and John Yarbrough, MSD combined sewer overflow.



Confined Space Entry Tower

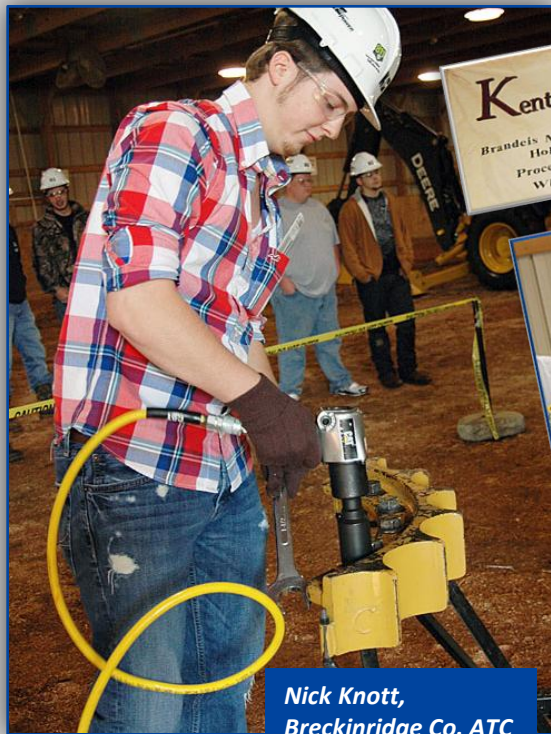
Bright:

"We are here because we want to attract students to our trade."



Above: Bright unlatches Jessica McBeath, a machine tool student from Lake Cumberland ATC.

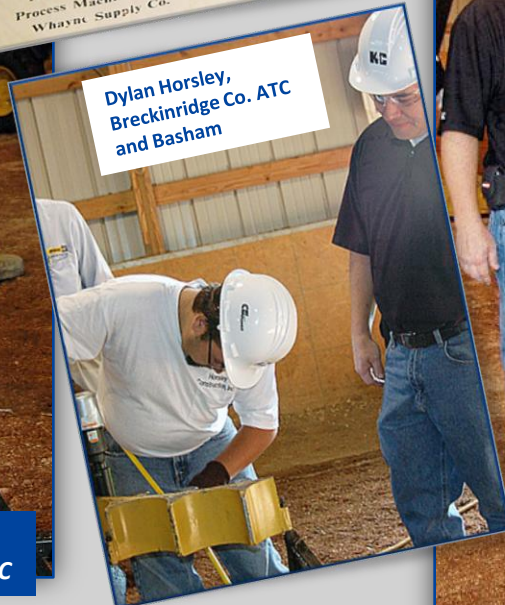
“Quick Draw” game sponsored by Kentucky Equipment Distributors allows students to show off skills and compete for prizes



**Nick Knott,
Breckinridge Co. ATC**



**Dylan Horsley,
Breckinridge Co. ATC
and Basham**



**Breckinridge Co. ATC welding
instructor Chris Basham
watches
Anthony Deutsch during Quick Draw
game. Ray Genet is a member of K4C
and helped organize the KED events.**

Ray Genet
Supervisor of technical training
Whayne Supply Company:



“The Kentucky Equipment Distributors (K.E.D.) stress the need for trained heavy equipment and diesel technicians. Today’s high tech systems on heavy equipment require trained technicians to service and maintain the sophisticated electronics, hydraulics, and diesel engines found on small to large earth moving equipment.

“Finding motivated young adults that are interested in pursuing this challenging career field is what brings the leading equipment distributors to this event.

“Technical education is critical in our state to keep industry moving forward.”



“Bolt in the Hole” game allows students to show off skills and compete for prizes



Jonathan Vincent, technical training instructor for Wayne Supply Co. (left) and Jerry Roberts, service operations specialist (right) conduct “Bolt in the Hole” game. Robert Cauble (middle), an industrial maintenance technology student at Shelby Co. ATC watches as his skills are checked.

Roberts:

“If students are looking to get in the heavy equipment or construction equipment fields, then a heavy equipment dealer is where they need to be.”



At right: Build a Circuit game

Ken Sharp, technical training instructor employed by Brandeis Machinery, watches as a student tries his hand at building a circuit by following a diagram.

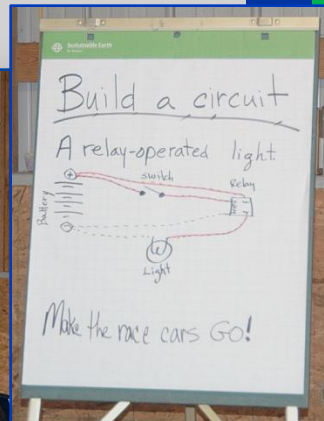




Photo (l to r): John McKibben, director of marketing, AGC of Kentucky; William Spaw, KY Tech-Madison Co. ATC welding student; and Shannon Woodard, AGC.

McKibben:

“The AGC of Kentucky are very pleased to have participated in this important event since its beginning. This is the future workforce of both the construction industry and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.”

For more information regarding the Associated General Contractors of Kentucky, visit <http://www.agckv.org/>

KY Association of Highway Contractors

Photo: Charles Lovern, KAHC executive director and Chad LaRue, KAHC director of membership services (and 2011 K4C chairman) flank carpentry students from McCreary Co. H.S.

LaRue:

“This type of an event is important because it allows us to speak directly with students. It’s important to make kids aware of the job opportunities in the highway construction industry.

For more information, visit <http://www.kahc.org/>





Top left: KAPHCC members Lee Kerr and Joel Berkley talk with Franklin Co. CTC students.

Top right: Southside Technical Center students visit the ACE Mentor Program exhibit to talk with Jeff Hofmann and Butch Krieger.



Robert Riggs of Robert Riggs Sales Service, Inc. and Donna Breeden, HBAK.



*Photo, lower left: Senninger Plumbing exhibit visited by KY Tech-Pulaski Co. ATC carpentry instructor Larry Huckaby and students in his program. "This is great," said Huckaby. "Industry representatives have validated what we are teaching in the classroom." *Owner Mark Senninger has been an active member of the K4C's career days event from the beginning.*



Kentuckiana Masonry Institute
 Photo (l to r): Kevin Gray, KMI executive director; Mary Graham, a student at Hughes Jones-Harrodsburg ATC and Mike Moser with the Construction Training Institute.

Gray:

"We need new blood in the industry and the focus behind these two days of construction career days is to get students involved in seeing what kinds of career paths are available, as well as how lucrative and rewarding these careers can be for them."



Lincoln Electric's virtual welding machine is a hit during the Construction Career Days event

Below: KY Tech-Madison Co. ATC welding student Darlene Barnes tries her hand at virtual welding while instructor James Mattox watches. Lincoln Electric representative Tony Noah is in the background operating the computer. (Barnes is the SkillsUSA local historian.)



At left: Ben Coons explains how the virtual welder works.

Below: Coons and Tevon Clay, a Franklin Co. CTC welding student, look over the virtual display to check a weld.



Tony J. Noah
Sales Engineer
Lincoln Electric:

For more information on Lincoln Electric, visit: www.lincolnelectric.com

"The Lincoln Electric Company demonstrated its Vrtex 360 virtual welding machine during the Construction Career Days event. The Vrtex 360 is a computer based welding training system that brings the welding booth into the classroom. Students can improve their welding skills in a safe and cost effective way. After making a virtual weld, a student is immediately given a grade. The student can subsequently identify fixes to improve his or her weld. The Vrtex 360 creates a fun and competitive atmosphere that will help attract new students to the welding trade."



Photo at left (l to r): Emily Wash, SkillsUSA KY administrative assistant; Mr. Steve Bennett, OCTE branch supervisor; and Kathryn Hunt, OCTE administrative secretary were on hand to promote SkillsUSA Kentucky during the event.

"SkillsUSA is the student organization that is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure that America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA serves teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations," said Fran Dundon, SkillsUSA Kentucky interim director. "Partnering with the K4C to bring students closer to business and industry representatives is an outstanding reason for SkillsUSA Kentucky to participate in the Construction Career Days event."



At left: Thomas Biggers, an Iroquois carpentry student fills out a ticket stub to be eligible to win a SkillsUSA screwdriver set. Wash and Hunt are in the background.

SkillsUSA Kentucky winners

**Wednesday: Dillon Tingle - welding
KY Tech-Nelson Co. ATC**
**Thursday: Jason Smalley - carpentry
KY Tech-Pulaski Co. ATC**

[Click here to visit the
SkillsUSA Kentucky website](#)



IRWIN Tools



Irwin Tools representative Andrea Thornton with Nelson Co. ATC students (l to r): Garrett Sanders, HVAC; Anthony Wilkerson, automotive technology; Devan Reid, automotive technology; and Cody Spalding, automotive, carpentry, and wood manufacturing. Spalding also serves as the local SkillsUSA Chapter treasurer.



Irwin Tools representative Courtney Haycraft with Nelson Co. ATC students (l to r): Ryan Coomer, Eric Smith, Jonathan Hahn, and Dillion Tingle. All are welding students under the direction of instructor Joe Grider.

Tony Riccardi
Territory Manager-Commercial Sales:

<http://www.irwin.com/>

IRWIN
TOOLS

"Irwin Tools understands the need to target today's youth because of the serious shortage of skilled workers in Kentucky and all over the United States. This is the type of event that allows business and industry to positively promote skilled careers to those who will make up our future workforce.

"Participating in Kentucky's Construction Career Days allows a company like ours to talk about the many 'Tools by Trade' our company manufactures and distributes while at the same time providing students with a chance to look at and handle our tools. Superior performance and durability on the job is what trade professionals demand from their hand tools and power tool accessories. Taking the time to share who we are and the products we manufacture is an important investment in the student's future as well as ours."

KY Tech-Meade Co. ATC



Students surround instructors (l to r): David McCoy, welding; Jeff Gutermuth, carpentry; Faye Campbell, principal; Cory Stranahan, automotive technology; and, Nancy Wheeler, Emergency and Fire Management Services.

Campbell:

"We attended the construction event by bringing three buses loaded with SkillsUSA members who really enjoyed the day. Students said they had a good time, learned a lot, and appreciated getting hard hats, safety glasses, and all types of give-aways. Our students also were able to talk with postsecondary representatives from various universities and colleges as well."

"This is educational for our students, and we greatly appreciate all the businesses and companies who donate their time and money to promote careers in the construction industry. It offers students so much and we feel this event is worthy of time out of class because it compliments what we are teaching in class. We also appreciate all the work of OCTE staff that were so instrumental in providing this opportunity."

Photo at right: KY Tech-Madison Co. ATC welding students under the direction of Mr. James Mattox.

Mattox:

“Construction Career Days provides us with an excellent opportunity to expose our students to construction industry professionals. The support from business and industry is phenomenal because our students get to observe and actually take part in using state of the art equipment and cutting edge technology.”



Photo: Marilyn Underwood (l) and Carmalee R. Cramer, IEC of the Bluegrass, Inc. executive director (far right) pose with Madison Co. ATC electrical technology students Zach Carraway, Michael Urso, and Matthew Keber. Madison Co. ATC electrical technology instructor Michael Sandlin is next to Cramer.

Sandlin:

“This is a wonderful event because it gives our students a great opportunity to learn about the trades and what options are available for them to pursue. We believe this is a valuable use of time and appreciate what the K4C has done to organize this outstanding activity.”

KY Tech-Madison Co. ATC



Gray Construction, photo (l to r): Ravin W. Marrs, Gray Construction human resources coordinator; Dylan Clark, KY Tech-Harrison Co. carpentry student and local SkillsUSA vice president; Eric O'Brian, KY Tech-Harrison Co. ATC machine tool technology student and local SkillsUSA parliamentarian; Hoyt Burns, KY Tech-Harrison Co. machine tool technology instructor; and Josh Murtaugh, Gray Construction assistant project manager. (Murtaugh is a former member of SkillsUSA through the KY Tech-Letcher County Area Technology Center.

Marrs:

"The benefit for Gray Construction to be involved with the Kentucky Construction Career Days is our commitment to continuously improving and developing ourselves and our communities. Being here for 2 days to expose high school students to what is available for them to do in our industry is important to growing a suitable workforce and also help give the students new ideas."

Burns:

"The Construction Days activities at Shelbyville are a must for both employers and potential employees. Neither group can afford to neglect the necessity of what has become a great opportunity for industry to showcase career pathways for students to pursue."

Photo at right, back row (l to r): KY Tech-Harrison Co. ATC machine tool technology students Dillion Palmer, Jesse Yarnell, Dylan Taylor and Chris Ishmael. Front row, (l to r): Jason Joyner, Tradesmen International field representative; and Kevin McCubbin.

Joyner:

"An activity like this provides students with an opportunity to understand that there are jobs out there and that we are here to help place them in the industry."



Louisville Water Company - www.louisvillewater.com
Students enjoy activities during 2011 K4C Construction Career Days event



Paul Stallings, a utility worker at the Louisville Water Company does a hands-on activity with Bowling Green students Tavion Barnett and J.D. Shobe, automotive technology students under the direction of instructor Chuck Glass (in back).

Glass:

"The value of this event is that it shows all of our students the types of opportunities that are available out there.

"My students have enjoyed this trip because they have been able to talk directly with professionals about a variety of careers."



The National Guard exhibit drew numerous students.



KCTCS representatives promote construction programs

(l to r): Danny Taylor, Marion Co. ATC carpentry instructor; Claude Gross, Bluegrass CTC construction technology coordinator and K4C team member; Harrison Boggs, Letcher Co. ATC carpentry instructor; and Eric Highly, Southside Technical Center.

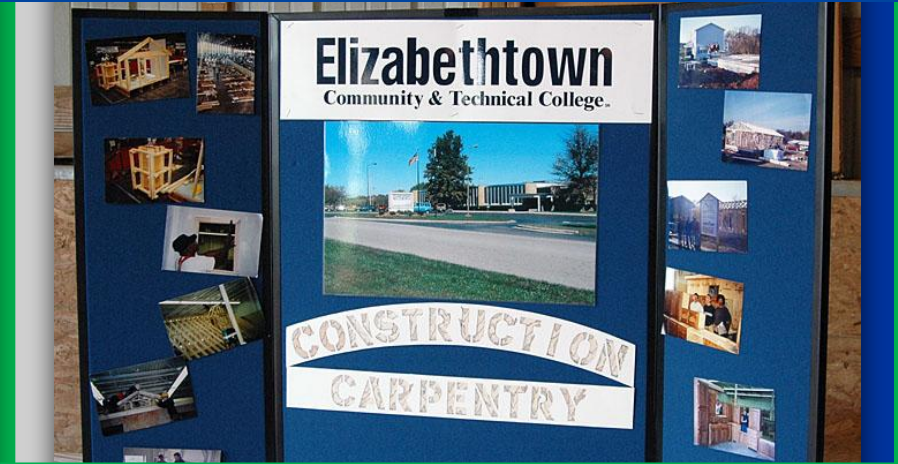


Gross:

"As the Bluegrass Community and Technical College construction technology programs coordinator, I get great satisfaction in the fact that we are able to promote our name to all the students who attend each year.

"The event is an opportunity to recruit students from KY Tech and locally operated career and technical education schools. Through this event, students become more familiar with the construction industry and can see firsthand the opportunities that are available. This in turn makes our construction program more attractive to those students."

At right (l to r): former student and now currently serving as KY Tech-Breathitt Co. carpentry instructor Gene Booth and Gross.



(l to r): ECTC carpentry students Ben Hall, Dakota Nunn, and Jason Cundiff. Instructor Robert Woodson is in the back.



Woodson:

"We know events like this get students interested in construction because they can see the real world in action and get to talk with people about career choices."

"For us, this is a high-quality recruitment effort."



Photo above: HOSA students, under the supervision of Shelby Co. ATC health sciences instructor Sherry Allen, provide participants with a courtesy service by taking their blood pressure. Front left is Bryan Dyer, construction management professor at Eastern Kentucky University and Sarah Adkins, associate director of high school programs with Spencerian College.

"It is important for my students to be here because they can practice their skills and help educate others about the risks of high blood pressure," says Allen.

Adkins:

"This is a great opportunity for Spencerian College because we can promote our programs and meet with high school students from all areas of the state enrolled in a wide variety of career and technical programs."

****For more information, visit: www.spencerian.edu**

Dyer:

"EKU has a lot of programs that would interest students in career and technical education. We support the efforts of the K4C and what they are doing to promote construction careers."



At left: Ron Chilton, Sullivan College of Technology and Design, meets with Southside Technical Center students.



Evan Koetter (l) and Todd Schindler (far right) of Koetter talk with Shelby Co. ATC students Cameron Burgin and Wesley Lewis.

Koetter:

"We are involved because we think it is important to get the word out about what we do. And, we believe it is important to show students through hands-on activities because it allows them to see what technology is available in the field."

Skills training and a work ethic has and must continue to be taught at the secondary level. Many business and industry professionals are in agreement that Kentucky Tech and locally operated technical centers provide a valuable and needed service in training our future workforce. And, according to K4C member Mac Crawford, "that future workforce is critical to the overall success of the construction industry."

"The Kentucky Construction Career Days event is a combined effort of construction industry associations, contractors, educators, volunteers, suppliers, and more. It is exciting to offer students a hands-on look into all the potential careers in the industry," said K4C member Christine Parsons of Parsons Electric, Inc.

Instructors and administrators alike feel the K4C Construction Career Days event is a outstanding opportunity for students to see how learning in the classroom connects to a real world career choice. Why? Quite simply – students meet various business, industry and higher education professionals - they have an the chance to operate heavy machinery, use a variety of tools, discuss skill sets, hear what they can earn in their field of choice - and - learn about postsecondary pathways. Can you think of anything better that a career and technical education student might want to do on a beautiful fall day?



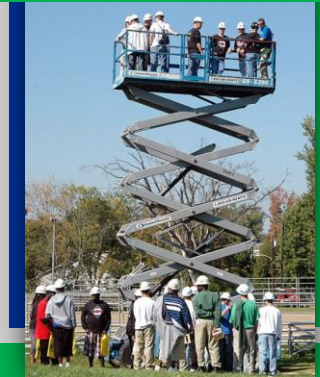
Above (l to r): KY Tech-Pulaski Co. ATC welding student Taylor Cundiff and instructor Scott Johnson pose in front of MSD's rain barrel display.

"This is an important day each year for my students," said Johnson. "The information they receive is priceless."



At left: Tes Tech Drill Rigg. (l to r): Anthony Garcia, Shelby Co. H.S.' Doug Shope, drill helper and Allen Messer, driller.

At right: Occupational Safety and Health mobile unit brought by the KY Department of Labor. Nelson Co. ATC students T.J. Osborne, Patrick Cundiff, and Logan King talk with Anthony Stilger.



Why a construction career fair?



K4C members understand the value of hosting an event of this magnitude because there is a dire need to positively promote "rewarding careers in the commercial, residential and highway construction industries." In reality – there is an understanding that all their industries need a skilled workforce.

KY Tech Good News Story #362

By: Fran Dundon

October 6, 2011

Office of Career and Technical Education
Education and Workforce Dev. Cabinet